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A LAW THAT IS NEEDED.

Among the matters to be brought before the city council tonight for final action will be the bill regulating the use of explosives on the Fourth of July. Heretofore The Astorian has taken occasion to comment this measure, and to say that it is a matter of small concern that objection should have been raised to it because, perhaps, it may result to the commercial disadvantage of some one.

There are numerous reasons why the use of explosives should be prohibited. Statistics show that 466 lives were sacrificed last year through promiscuous use of explosives on the Fourth of July. Of the total number 406 persons succumbed to lockjaw. Besides the large number of persons killed, 3983 were seriously injured, and so many less seriously hurt that no record was made of the number. It will thus be seen that there were almost 5000 persons killed or injured on the Fourth of last year.

The proposed law is not in any way calculated to put a damper on patriotism. People may celebrate the nation's natal day without making fools of themselves or endangering the lives of the women and children who throng the streets. The death of one little child would not be excused on all the commercial grounds which might be urged against the law now pending, and the council will fail in its duty if it neglects to enact the ordinance. A man may just as well run morally amuck with firecrackers as with firearms; and it should be the duty of the council to see that he may be held legally accountable for his act.

ALASKA'S CHRONIC COMPLAINT.

The president has decided to send a personal representative, in whose fairness and sound judgment he has the utmost confidence, to Alaska to investigate the various charges and countercharges which have been filed by and against a number of federal officeholders, with a view to determining on the ground the real merits of controversies which have been raging for years in the district, says the Post-Intelligencer.

The condition seems to be chronic, and there seems no other manner of settling it. A change of personnel does not put a stop to the quarrels, for as fast as a new man arrives he gets into the thick of the controversy as deeply as his predecessor and takes his hand in filing charges and in defending himself against charges which have been filed against him.

There must be a right and wrong side to all of these quarrels, but which side is right and which is wrong cannot be determined at Washington on the written testimony which has been sent there, for there is about as much of it filed on one side as on the other.

A man from the outside, a trained and experienced lawyer, holding a high federal position, knowing none of the parties, and having no purpose to serve save to honestly aid the president in determining clearly the merits of the quarrels, can probably get at the real truth of the matter. Assistant Attorney General Young appears to have these qualifications. He will leave for Alaska in about three weeks, and will spend the greater part of the summer in the disagreeable duty to which he has been assigned. He is quite likely to come away profoundly impressed with the soundness of the tradition that there is something about the atmosphere of the far northern territory which is unfavorable to the cultivation of veracity. But be that as it may, it is to be hoped that he is a man of capacity adequate to suggest at least a partial remedy, if not a complete cure, for Alaska's chronic complaint.

AN ICE CREAM YEAR.

"Farmer" Dunn, or, more correctly and technically, Sergeant Dunn, is undoubtedly the safest and surest weather prophets the United States government ever had in its employ, one who superseded "Old Probabilities" with something like certainties. When, therefore, Mr. Dunn declares himself, "justified in saying we may expect an unusually hot and dry summer," it is the part of wisdom to give heed to his words and make our plans accordingly. Laying aside for the nonce the theory that "weather travels in cycles," and that these cycles are 28 years in duration, which would give us a repetition of the hot and arid days of the summer of the "centennial year," 1876, which followed an unusually cold, long

and severe winter, Mr. Dunn argues that as annual mean temperature remains about the same, it is not unreasonable to expect, as a means of averaging up the weather, "a very sudden and abnormally hot summer."

But, fortunately, Mr. Dunn does not leave us without hope, for he says the abnormal warmth will endure for short periods, and that the heat will be extended more into the fall and winter months. He also promises relief from the hot spells "at intervals," and that they will come "more in thunderstorms than in heavy rains."

Well, there's nothing like knowing what to expect, for then one can prepare. The coming season should prove a blessing for the summer resorts, at any rate—or rates.

DECREASE OF CONSUMPTION.

After all the years of experiment with failure to find a cure for consumption, it certainly will be gratifying to the public to learn from eminent medical authority that it is shown by carefully prepared statistics that the disease is tending toward extinction.

The Boston Herald quotes from a monograph by Dr. S. W. Abbott, secretary of the Massachusetts board of health, to support the claim that within the next half century "the many sanatoria now peopled by consumptives may possibly be filled by those who are suffering with cancer, since cancer appears to be steadily increasing, while phthisis is tending toward extinction." The Herald quotes from Dr. Abbott's tables and comments as follows:

"While the death rate in Massachusetts from consumption per million of people was in 1902 1595, 50 years ago, or in 1853, the death rate per million from this cause was 4,272, thus indicating a decline in the interval of much more than 50 per cent. To state similar conditions in relative terms, the death rate from consumption in Massachusetts for the decade 1851-'60 for each 10,000 of its people was 39.9, while in the interval of a half-century our state has enormously increased in the number of its inhabitants, actual cases of death from this cause are now no greater than they were at that distant time.

"Another interesting fact brought out by Dr. Abbott's statistical tables is that, while half a century ago the death rate from consumption among females was some 30 or 40 per cent greater than the death rate from this cause among males, for some years past the reverse has been the case—that is, dividing the sexes the number of women who now die from consumption is relatively considerably less than the number of men. This change has its corresponding parallel in the experience of England, where deaths by consumption are on the decrease, and where an excessive female mortality from this cause has now given place to a corresponding female immunity. The differences in England have been less marked than they have been in Massachusetts, a circumstance due, perhaps, to the fact that the rate of mortality by consumption in England was lower 50 years ago than in Massachusetts, while now the conditions of relative immunity are gradually approaching each other.

"The death rate by consumption among females appears to be disproportionately large from the age of 5 to the age of 20. Between the ages of 10 and 20 years the death rate of females from this cause is fully twice that of males, and in a reduced degree the same holds true of the experience of the sexes between the ages of 15 and 20. But after that age the relative immunity of women makes itself evident. Thus, while 40 years ago many more women died in Massachusetts from consumption between the ages of 20 and 50 years, at the present time many more men than women die in Massachusetts from this cause during these three-age decades.

"The chief point in Dr. Abbott's paper, which we think will be of interest to all, and perhaps of surprise to many, is his confident belief, based upon mortality tables, that what has been—certainly for us in New England—the most murderous of all human diseases is rapidly approaching its end. We are either becoming immune to it through evolutionary processes or better hygienic conditions are bringing about their logical results."

The trouble about a hall of fame is that some of the people who seem all right as representatives of the greatness of one generation look like misfits to the next.

It is said that laborers receive only 50 cents a day in Panama, but it is safe to predict that they will have a union that gets more in a very little while.

Judging from past experiences, some of the Russians are inclined to think it advisable to put off a decisive battle as long as possible.

Mr. Cleveland still thinks what the democrats need is a candidate who possesses both capital and experiences.

Mr. Hearst doubtless realizes that he is young enough to wait till 1916 if it is absolutely necessary.

The Japs deny that the blowing up of one of their torpedo boats is a new form of the hara-kiri habit.

Santos Dumont is at work on airship No. 7. This should give Sir Thomas Lipton courage.

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

For Defeated Candidates.

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these—it might have been!"

After looking at the election returns we are more than ever convinced of the chances for vice president of MISTER Hardesty!

Was it coincidence that one of the greatest distilleries in the country should be destroyed one day prior to the vote on local option?

It is now up to some innocent to suggest that the longshoremen be treated to a boat ride!

The country is saved again! Civil war has been averted! Clatsop county will not secede!

If Kuropatkin doesn't look out, the Japs will make a pot pie out of those carrier pigeons.

Champ Clark says that there is many a man in department life in Washington who would have made a great author or lawyer. We always suspected that some of those postoffice employees would make great lawyers!

For Successful Candidates.

G-reat
R-ecrepts
A-fter
F-inding
T-his

Get out the crepe!

Now that the election is over, June brides and the sweet girl grad will come into the public eye again.

Togo has been promoted. That's right—he ought Togo to the top!

How much did you lose?

For Multonomah—the Word is the law!

Heard on Commercial Street.

"Have you voted yet?"
"Not in this precinct!"

For losing bettors—"Yon Cassius hath a lean and hungry look. He bets too much!"

McCULLY.

DRAMATIC.

Before a packed house, the Empire Stock Company last night presented "Capital Vs. Labor," a modernized version of "The Lost Paradise." The play itself is a thrilling portrayal of conflicting powers in the heart and soul of man. It calls for that greatest of all efforts on the part of the actor or actress—the portrayal in an interesting manner of roles that are simple and void of strength save in their simplicity, in roles where the actor must furnish the life and spirit, roles that might be called dull on paper. There was nothing dull about the bill as presented last night. Miss Corinne Snell, the beautiful and talented leading lady, charmed her audience from her first appearance on the stage. She handled her role of Margaret Crompton with the proper spirit—not overdoing nor underdoing, but wandering in the golden mean.

Alfred Aldridge was accorded an enthusiastic reception and played the part of George Weston to the satisfaction of all in the house. The work of Miss Snell and Mr. Aldridge in connection is harmonious and well measured. The supporting company is a strong one, and the specialties are excellent. Taken altogether, there is no reason why the Empire people should not play to a crowded house every night during their stay in Astoria.

The illness of an actress has made it necessary for the bill advertised for tonight to be changed. Instead of "Faust," "Married by Mistake" will be presented, and "Faust" will come tomorrow evening. The bill for tonight is a furiously funny farce that brings the tears of laughter to the eyes of all.

CONSTIPATION

"For over nine years I suffered with chronic constipation and during this time I had to take an injection of warm water once every 24 hours before I could have an action on my bowels. Happily I tried Cascarets, and today I am a well man. During the nine years before I used Cascarets I suffered untold misery with internal piles. Thanks to you I am free from all this suffering. You can see this in behalf of suffering humanity."
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